comes to the knowledge of AICTE, it serves notices, warning such institutes to get formal approval as per the AICTE Act or stop functioning. AICTE has set up Cells for Prevention of Malpractices to curb such violations. Also, in order to protect the public from any unapproved institutions, AICTE releases notices in leading Newspapers in addition to exhibition of details of approved Institutes on its website. Notified policy on fee fixation in private unaided educational institutions imparting higher and technical education including Management Education provides for ensuring avoidance of commercialisation and profit making. As and when reports are received regarding charging of capitation fee or commercialisation of education by institutions, AICTE directs the concerned State Government or the University to conduct independent inquiry, the recommendations of which are considered by AICTE and appropriate directions are issued.

Research Period for Ph.D. Degree

† 2060. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum research period for awarding Ph.D. degree in various Universities affiliated to the University Grants Commission;

(b) whether there_is any provisons to reduce this period; and

(c) if so, the University-wise details thereof particularly with reference to Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar University, Agra and the University of Delhi, Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA) : (a) According to the information furnished by University Grants Commission, the Commission has not prescribed any minimum research period for awarding Ph. D. degree.

(b) and (c) The UGC does not have university-wise information about their provisions relating either to the minimum research period or reduction in this period for awarding Ph.D. degree. Different Universities take decisions in this regard with reference to their respective Acts and Statutes.

Encouraging Students for Studying Science

2061. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) the initiative being taken to attract young students for taking science as career;

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether any effort is being made to encourage students at 10th level to take science as their career; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) The Government has always placed a high priority on promoting Science and Technology in the country and the need for nurturing talented and brilliant science students so as to encourage them to take research as a career. The Kishore Vaigyanik Prothsahan Yojana (K VPY), launched by Department of Science & Technology during 1999-2000, targets the young science students at the school and college level. The Yojana aims to encourage students of basic sciences, engineering and medicine to take up research career in these areas.

Schemes to Rehabilitate Sex Workers

2062. SHRI P.N. SIVA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start some schemes for employment and income generation for the sex workers, in order to encourage them to reintegrate into the society;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to eradicate child prostitution and their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a)and(b) Yes, Sir. The scheme proposes measures for social and economic rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances including trafficked women or girls rescued from brothels or run away from other places.

(c) Advisory Committees on Child Prostitution have been set up at Central and State levels to address the issues in cooperation with NGO representatives. An amendment to the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 is underway for making punishment for traffickers more stringent. A network of Short Stay Homes has also been set up for protection and rehabilitation of the victims of prostitution.